deep sea water. After conducting several experiments in the Laboratory (500 Litre per day capacity & 5000 Litre per day capacity), a LTTD plant with a capacity of 1 lakh litre/day production of fresh water was developed.

(b) and (c) The one-lakh litre per day capacity plant was commissioned at Kavaratti, one of the islands of Lakshadweep in May, 2005. The plant has been effectively working continuously since then and catering significantly to the needs of the population of Kavaratti. This plant was handed over to Lakshadweep Administration in March, 2006 for operation and maintenance. This LTTD plant has produced about 5 crore litre of water so far. The Ministry did receive the proposals from Lakshadweep 'Administration to set up eight more LTTD plants in other islands. Actions have been initiated to set up desalination plant in other two islands of the Lakshadweep. These LTTD plants are land based similar to the one commissioned at Kavaratti.

To cater to the needs of the large population of coastal cities of India, development of higher capacity plants is under way. Since there is no depth of 700 meter or so near the shore, these plants have to be barge mounted about 30 to 40 kms. away from the coast. Towards this, an LTTD plant with a capacity of one million Litre per day was designed, developed and demonstrated on experimental basis on a barge off Chennai in February, 2007. The plant could not be made operational for a longer period due to strong waves. NIOT is now working out to come out with a solution for make it operational under deep sea conditions.

(d) The other countries who are connecting salty water to drinking water include Israel, USA, Dubai etc. However, these plants are using a different technology called reverse osmosis.

New Legislation for promoting innovation and flexibility

2209. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a new US-type legislation to promote innovation and flexibility in the country's universities where scientists would be given ownership of intellectual property for the first time for their creations;

(b) if so, the other main objectives of the proposal; and

(c) to what extent this decision will be beneficial for universities?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Response of R and D institutions and communities

2210. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public funded R and D institutions and the scientific community are not adequately responding to the needs of rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have taken any action against institutions and communities during the last two years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the response of R and D institutions and scientific community in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government has several schemes related to societal development to catalyze and support research, development and adaptation of relevant and appropriate technologies for empowering and improving quality of life in rural areas. Technology institutions/R and D laboratories function as a source of relevant technologies and models which are implemented in rural areas through voluntary agencies and other institutions. Sometimes there is a time lag in new technology to reach the rural areas. The impact of the programmes has been felt in local areas. However due to inadequacy of funds and other resources for such programmes, large scale dissemination has suffered. In spite constraints many models and local level technologies have been developed and are being practiced. Some of the proven technologies/packages are—

* Fruit/vegetable processing and preservation for value addition at village level with quality control. Model is working at 23 locations in the country,